

**FREMONT CABLE T.V. CONTRACT RENEWAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES - OCTOBER 30, 2007**

Attendees:

MEMBERS

**Neal Janvrin
Warren Yee
Tom McGall
Peter Bearse
Keith Stanton**

DRAFT ONLY- kjs

COMCAST

Thomas Somers

PUBLIC

Neil Rowland

INVITED GUEST

Kevin Long- A/V Video

TAKING NOTES

Keith Stanton

Motion to call to order @ 7:12PM by Neal Janvrin. Second by Tom McGall. Voted in favor, Warren Yee and Keith Stanton.

Peter Bearse arrived at 7:20 and explained that Chairman McLean can not attend. Committee approves to have Peter chair meeting.

-Peter handed out printed information on recent newspaper article & Oct 9 meeting minutes.

-Somers asked to skip the meeting minutes approval because 'there was a lot to do'.

-Somers said that the Towns responsibility will be from the 'outlet' forward and Comcast's will be from the 'outlet' back to Exeter. If a problem arises, Comcast can be called to take care of their problem.

-Peter said that some language that has been used contains a 'throw switch' term.

-Somers said that there is no reference to that in here (contract). Comcast will make sure signal comes out of the modulator.

-Neal asked if everything from modulator back to Exeter is Comcast's responsibility.

-Somers, yes.

-Stanton asked if the modulator belongs to the Town.

-Somers, yes.

Kevin Long arrived @ 7:30PM.

-Somers handed out printed material about customer service (FCC language).

-Kevin Long was introduced as being recommended by Somers and invited by Bearse.

-Kevin asked if selectmen meetings were important to be broadcast.

-Somers said that they were and the library and school also, with the Town hall as a permanent site and the others portable and that the Town has proposed franchise fees to raise \$ for equipment. Live broadcasting to be the goal.

-Kevin asked how big the room is.

-Neal said, small.

-Peter said that various groups use the library.

-Kevin asked, right now you give tapes to Comcast?

-Somers said, yes. And there will be an access corp.

-Kevin asked if there was a bulletin board.

-Jay answered, yes.

- Kevin asked if we need playback equip. and camera.

-Jay said, yes and mics.

-Kevin said that every person needs a mic.

-Jay asked Kevin to explain a 'studio in a box'.

- Kevin said that they start @ \$10,000 and that there was no need for that, just set up remote cameras and have automatic volume control.

-Jay said, they already know what the costs for the line is and need to know how much the equipment will costs and how it works.

-Kevin explained that if you use servers it will cost \$10,000 minimum in server fees but, you only get 63 minutes from each tape. Bulletin boards are \$3,000 and up and a computer and DVD interface is needed.

- Neil Rowland asked if there was a possibility of getting used equipment.

-Kevin said that perhaps it might. He replaces old systems with new equipment and sometimes the customer does not want the old stuff. He said that it sounds like one camera is good for what we are doing.

-Stanton asked if a VCR is needed.

-Kevin said, yes.

-Kevin asked if the equipment in Exeter is owned by Town.

-Jay said, no.

-Kevin said that sometimes in cases like this with a new channel starting the equipment "goes with it" as it is little use to Comcast anymore. He said, 'it is not healthy to move around the modulator'.

-Jay asked Kevin if he supplies training sessions.

-Kevin answered, yes, and I give 24/7 support.

-Peter said, we are making a leap forward here from the \$500 camera we have now to \$15,000 of equipment.

-Jay asked, 'what about Keith's equipment?

-Kevin said, it's not good.

-Peter said that there have been complaints about sound quality.

-Kevin said that a '3-chip camera' is about \$3000.

-Peter asked, why use tape?

-Kevin answered, because hard drives are dangerous and get corrupted.

-Jay asked if the selectmen audio tape their meetings.

-Stanton said, no.

-Peter asked if we need more than one camera.

-Neal said that unless someone is changing the angle of the camera, we need more. And he mentioned that Kevins prices seemed very reasonable compared to what he has seen for others.

-Kevin said, that he has put in over 200 systems and knows what works well. He said that we need to have our channel look half decent but not over-built.

-Neal said, that a portable camera for remote broadcast is needed.

-Peter asked if we should take a vote on that.

-Neal said, that will be up to the next committee.

-Jay said that if you start Jan 21, it will be 6-9 months before anything happens.

-Neal said, we have to wait for Town Meeting.

-Stanton asked if the proposal at the last work session was for 75 cents per month franchise fees plus franchise related costs.

-Neal & Jay said, yes.

-Tom said that we need to know what this will cost. Live broadcast is critical.
-Kevin asked who supplies the modulators.
-Jay said, 'we do'.
-Tom said that we need just enough equipment to 'do it right'.
-Kevin said, as far as having the basement and the first floor of Town Hall wired, we could make it so that both are being recorded or one recording at the same time the other is being live broadcast.
-Kevin said that 'cheap cameras' do not have microphone ports.
-Stanton said that since it will be 6-9 months before a line is even brought to Town, we have time to think about it.
-Jay said, yes.
-Tom asked if the details about live broadcast of Town meeting can be put into the contract.
-Jay said, yes.

-Kevin Long left meeting @ 8:26PM.

-Jay said that we have a lot to do and need to move along. Passed out 'language' that was asked for at the last meeting. Asked that the next meeting start at 6PM. He asked to have us look at it later. It contained info on return line, F.R.C., public access, drops and gross revenues.

Jay said that if any competitors to Comcast move into Town, the franchise fees will go UP.

-Tom asked if the 29 cents is a fixed price.

-Jay said, no.

-Stanton asked for the total amount of franchise fees paid so far under the current contract.

-Jay said that he does not know, 'there are no records'.

-Tom said that we need to 'keep it 75 cents or less'.

-Jay asked to meet 2 weeks from tonight 6PM to talk about funding. And if contract can be signed in Jan. before Town Meeting.

-Neal said, we need to wait until Town Meeting to approve a special fund.

-Stanton said that the FRC's do not need a special fund because Comcast keeps that money and that if we have to wait 6-9 months to get the line, we can use our own equipment until the fund is established. That way, at least the line is in place.

-Neal said that we need to word the warrant article so that we can spend the money when we need to. He said that it could become a legal problem without a special revenue fund because the \$ would go right into the general fund and be lost.

-Neal made a motion to meet at 6:00 Nov 13th. Second by Tom. All voted in favor.

-Stanton asked how often does the Franchisee write the contract and not the Franchising Authority.

-Jay said that 85% of the "language is standard".

-Peter asked why the payout is bi-annual and not quarterly.

-Jay said that it can be 'whatever you want'.

-Motion to adjourn at 8:50PM by Neal.

-Seconded by Tom.

-All voted in favor.

ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Stanton